

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 16-35 remain pending in this application. Based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §§102, 103

Claims 13, 14, 16, and 33-35 stand rejected either under 35 U.S.C. §102, as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,315,778 ("Gambale"). Claims 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being obvious over Gambale in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,488,688 ("Lim"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, since no proper combination of Gambale and Lim discloses, teaches, or suggests the combination of elements required by these claims.

In particular, independent claim 13 requires the first diameter of the balloon to be coupled to the third diameter by a distal-facing sloping surface. For example, Fig. 3 illustrates the balloon 300 as having a distal-facing sloping surface 350. As can be seen in Fig. 3, the sloping surface of the distal face of the balloon allows the balloon to come into intimate contact with the tissue 380. In contrast, although the balloon 102 of Gambale does have a distal-facing surface on which the ablative ring electrode 112 is mounted, this distal-facing surface is completely flat and does not slope at all. Lim does not supplement the failed teachings of Gambale.

Thus, Applicant submits that claims 13, 14, 16-21, and 33-35 are patentable over Gambale and Lim, and as such, respectfully requests withdrawal of the §§102, 103 rejections of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant graciously acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-12 and 22-32.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (949) 724-1849.

Respectfully submitted,

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